Investment in Infrastructure Sectors

*63 SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:†
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the sector-wise details about investment during the Ninth Plan in the infrastructure sectors of power, telecommunications, roads and highways, ports, airports, irrigation, about projected investment;

(b) the break-up of such sector-wise details in terms of private and public sector investment; and

(c) the actual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flowing into these sectors during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised and therefore sectoral investments are still to be firmed up.

(c) Inflow of FDI received during January, 1996—September, 1998 as reported by RBI, Mumbai for fuel (power and oil refinery) and telecommunications, Cellular Mobile and Basic Telephone Services is Rs. 2224.85 crore and Rs. 3657.85 crore respectively. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for roads and highways, ports, airports and irrigation for the same period is NIL.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, before I put the supplementary, I would like to say this. Mr. Sikander Bakht is not here. But I would take the liberty of saying this. When he was the Leader of the Opposition, many times he used to come up and say in frustration, addressing you, मुझे समझ में नहीं आता है, मैं क्या कहूं। I am reminded of that by the reply I have received for my query about the projected investment in infrastructure sectors in the Ninth Plan. We are in December, the end of 1998. The reply is, "The Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised and therefore sectoral investments are still to be firmed up". If there has to be a guideline as to how not to govern a Government, this is the classic example. Today, on 3rd December, 1998, you said that you don't have the projections in the infrastructural sector, you don't have the firmed up figures. If it is so, what are you doing here? I have before me the business plan of the Infrastructural Development Finance Company Limited which was formed in 1997. Now, some projections have been given there. For instance, now, instead of Rs. 60,000 crores investment necessary per year, the requirement will be Rs. 107000 crores next year. Similarly, some break-up has been given, some projection has been given as per the 'India Infrastructure Report' from 2001 to 2006. Is it that the Government does not want to share the information regarding planning of the Ninth Plan with this House or is it that they are not in a position to say why this delay has occurred? What are they supposed to do? Are they going to do anything at all? This is my question.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, there is certainly no intention not to give information. But I must explain the facts. The delay has not been on our part as such because the National Development Council's Approach Paper' was laid on the Table on 16th January, 1997. The Internal Commission had their draft which was released by Prof. Madhu Dandvate, the then Deputy Chairman, on Ist March, 1998. Thereafter, we have formed our Government, we have formed our national agenda. We have altered the priorities. The Internal Commission had its meeting and the full Planning Commission discussed the draft and the draft has been approved by the full Commission. Now, it will go to the Cabinet, and after that, to the NDC, and then the final figures can be given. This is the position.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, my question is very clear. I want the projections. Do you have any projections? Do you have anything in mind as to how much you are going to spend for power, how much you required for roads and how much you require for ports? Otherwise, how is it that the hon. Prime Minister goes and declares somewhere that roads costing Rs. 20,000 crores would be constructed from Kashmir to Kanyakumari? Is that without any plan? Is that for public consumption and I am going to get a reply like this that we don't have any firmed up figures? Do we have to get the reports from somewhere else? Should I give you the break-up of your infrastructure report? What does is mean? It shows that you are not interested to give the figures. What I am trying to point out is that this Government is not governing, it is not functioning. The reply which is given after eight months...

ये क्या हो रहा है? This is the practice with the government officials also. What is the result? Meetings have been held. What is the result of these discussions?

हमने ये किया, हमने वो किया Do you feel that after this reply you have any reason to govern this country?

SHRI RAM NAIK: I will explain. Unless the Cabinet approves and unless the NDC approves, the final figures cannot be firmed up. That is why there can be changes in that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I have the figures. *(Interruptions)* Is it my job to furnish these figures to the House? Have you not consulted the officials? How have you given this reply? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nilotpal Basu, your name is next to him.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, let there be a full-fledged discussion on this issue. It is a very important matter.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, this has become a joke. Why are we asked by the Government to give notice for a question fifteen days before? This is an affront to Parliament. You have to protect us. You have to protect the institution. The Government cannot play with the Parliament by giving such replies.

SHRI RAM NAIK: We are not at all showing any affront towards Parliament. If on the basis of whatever has been finalised at this stage, the House wants any discussion, we are prepared for that discussion. But it will be an incomplete Five Year Plan. So, unless it is approved finally, we cannot lay it on the Table of the House. But if the hon. Members want a discussion, we are ready for a discussion on the Five Year Plan.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: If you give the projection, that will be the basis on which we can have a meaningful discussion. If the projections are not being given, we cannot have a discussion in the air.

SHRI RAM NAIK: For a meaningful discussion we are ready. The only point I am trying to highlight is that the figures are not worked out, and unless they are worked out, how can I give them?

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: We are not asking for working out the figures. We are asking for the projections.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, please see the question. Now he owes an apology to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, this is very unfairs. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is very unfair that the Government comes this way to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, shall I say something to clarify the position?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I can add something to remove the confusion. What the Planning Minister is trying to say is absolutely correct; unless a plan

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Depankar Mukherjee.

is approved—and the projection is also a Plan—no projections can be made, and without the approval of NDC no plan can be finalised. But the question is whether the hon. Minister will let us know the reasons. From March to November, eight months have passed. The Eighth Plan was finalised within six months, from June to December. Therefore, the Minister can't say that eight months is not adequate time. After all, some allocations are being made on the basis of the Annual Plan. Therefore, the hon. Minister should say that the Eighth Plan was over on the 1st of April, 1997, and from that day, the Ninth Plan was to start; on 31st of March, 1997, the Eighth Plan period was over; 1997-98 has gone; 1998-99 is on and it is also coming to an end. In these two years allocations might have been made on a certain basis and, perhaps, that basis was given in the draft, which was approved by the earlier NDC, which was furmulated by the Dandavate Commission. Otherwise, the other day, how the Industry Minister claiming that they had stopped up the Plan Outlay for infrastructure by 35 per cent? That was said on the floor of the House. Therefore, my query to the Minister, through you, Sir, is whether he will kindly let us know—the Prime Minister who is the Chairman of the Planning Commission is also here—how much time he will take to finalise the Ninth Plan. There are two processes. The draft is to be approved. We had a discussion on the floor of the House is some session on the basis of the draft which was approved by the earlier NDC, but this time, we would like to have a full discussion on the Ninth Plan, if he kindly indicates. Secondly, we want to know on what basis the Annual Plan allocations are being made, what his guideline is, whether he is taking a cue from the Plan which was earlier formulated when the public sector investment was roughly Rs. 8,75,000 crores or on what other basis he has made the Annual Plan allocations for 1997-98 and 1998-99. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, the Government should stop making big promises all over the world for public consumption when it is not having its papers ready and is also not doing its home work properly to back up those figures in terms of actual rules and laws of the country.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I am replying to the question asked by hon. Pranab Babu. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, we have an internal Commission which approved the draft on 5th November, 1998 and then the full Commission had its meeting on 10th November. So, on 10th November the full Commission has approved the draft. Now it will go to the Cabinet and the hon. Member does know that after the draft is approved by the Commission, a Cabinet Note is to be prepared, it is to be circulated and then only it can be finalised. I hope by the end of this month this formality can be completed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Tentatively can you indicate when you are calling the NDC?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Tentatively, say, within three months. By the end of March we can call it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It means, another year of Plan holiday!

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I can't help it because there were mid-term elections. I can't help it because the earlier Ministry, the earlier Government, when the Plan Approach Paper was passed in January, 1997, could not have the Plan. Now the Plan has been so delayed by them; of course, we have to carry on the responsibility, and we are carrying on with it and that is why we have now finalised it to this extent. On 10th November we have completed it. It goes to the Cabinet, and I have said, by the end of this month, the Cabinet will approve it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let one of you speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have said on Mukherjee has pro-

'bably bailed out this Government and the other Mukherjee ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: ये बहुत देर से बोल रहे हैं।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: मैं नहीं बोल रहा हूं। यह मत बोलिए।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: आप भी तो बोल रहे हैं।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: वे मुखर्जी बोल रहे हैं।

Don't confuse Pranab Mukherjee with Dipankar Mukherjee. Pranab Mukherjee has bailed out this Government. Sir, what I have stated is that regarding infrastructure, यह बहुत जरूरी है कि हम लोगों का डिसकशन इस पर हो। Whatever information that we are having, we are giving to the House. I have gone through all this. There is a very serious situation. In the second para of the reply you say that your FDI is hardly Rs. 5,000 odd crores and your requirement is Rs. 1,60,000 crores. You are talking about private investment. So, this is a serious issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We will have a half-an-hour discussion on this question. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have decided that on the basis of this question we will have a half-an-hour discussion.

Pesticide Content in Edible Products

*64. PROF. A. LAKSHMI SAGAR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific analysis of various edible products like rice, cereals, fruit, vegetables and animal feed and fodder has been made to know the extent of pesticide content injurious to consumers' health;

(b) if so, the details thereof, stating the periodicity of such analysis, if any, and the areas where the pesticide content in such products have been found to be the highest; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure the pesticide content at a safe level and to check the unsafe farming practices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Limited studies from time to time in different parts of the country were carried out by Directorate General of Health Services (under Ministry of Health) to assess the level of pesticides residues in different food articles. The studies revealed that the pesticides residues in most of the edible products like rice, cereals, fruit and vegetables were within the maximum prescribed tolerance limits. No pesticides residues tolerance limits have been prescribed for animal feed and fodder under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954. Some studies in regard to animal feed and fodder have been conducted by ICAR.

(c) (i) The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 prescribes doses and waiting period while approving the use of insecticides on various crops so as to ensure that pesticides residues do not exceed the tolerance limits prescribed under PFA Act, 1954.

(ii) To check unsafe farming practicies, the Government is promoting eco-friendly approach through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on various crops.

(iii) A massive educational and training programme on IPM for farmers and extension functionaries has been launched for minimising the use of pesticies.

(iv) Use of biopesticides including neem based pesticides are being encouraged.

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: यह भी फिर आधे घंटे का हो जाएगा। यह सवाल भी डिसकशन पर आने वाला है।

श्री सोमपाल: सदन में तो सभी डिसकशन में ही रहता है और क्या होता है।